ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner Jeff Regnart, Director



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SOUTHEAST ALASKA GEODUCK CLAM FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ketchikan. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information regarding the Southeast Alaska commercial geoduck clam fishery.

The following areas, as described in the September 14, 2012 geoduck fishery news release, will be open for the commercial harvest of geoduck clams for live sale with a 700 pound limit per diver from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2012:

District 1:

<u>Slate Island (Subdistrict 101-23-004)</u>: including the SARDFA enhancement site, will be open for a remaining harvest of 8,000 pounds of whole geoduck clams, **the Slate Island mariculture site described in the September 14, 2012 geoduck fishery news release will remain closed**;

District 3:

<u>Blanquizal Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-005)</u>: will be open for a remaining harvest of 30,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams;

<u>Palisades Islands (Subdistrict 103-70-006)</u>: will be open for a remaining harvest of 18,300 pounds of whole geoduck clams;

<u>St. Nicholas Channel, North Lulu Island (Subdistrict 103-70-007)</u>: will be open for a remaining harvest of 125,100 pounds of whole geoduck clams;

Districts 3 & 4:

<u>Cone Island North (Subdistricts 103-50-005, 104-40-005)</u>: will be open for a remaining harvest of 67,600 pounds of whole geoduck clams.

By regulation, all geoduck clams harvested must be clearly labeled with the date of harvest, the harvester's name, and the location of harvest. All geoduck clams harvested during a commercial fishery must be recorded on a fish ticket and are counted towards the 700 pound limit. Pounds of geoduck clams harvested over the 700 pound limit are considered property of the State and may not be retained as personal use.

In order to facilitate weekly sampling schedules the Alaska Department of Fish and Game must receive timely information about the harvest by area. Divers are requested to contact the company buying their geoduck clams with an estimate of pounds harvested. All companies buying geoduck clams are requested to contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Ketchikan office before 12:00 noon on Friday, November 16, 2012, with a harvest estimate by subdistrict.

There will be a Southeast Alaska Dive Fisheries Association Geoduck Committee meeting on November 19 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the current pace of the geoduck fishery. Topics will include fishing schedules and trip limits.

The geoduck fishery will remain closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 22 and reopen for a November 29 fishery.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1M3112.

News releases web site: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main.

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